



Arizona Vaccine News

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Since influenza vaccine has started being shipped to providers, the Arizona Department of Health Services would like you to have the following influenza vaccine information:

Influenza Vaccine Highlights

- **Offer influenza vaccine to patients as soon as you receive it.** Waiting is not necessary to extend protection throughout the winter. Serologic studies show that antibody levels are maintained well throughout the influenza season.
- **Vaccinate throughout the entire influenza season.** Seasonal influenza can start as early as November, while sporadic cases can occur at any time due to importation from the Southern Hemisphere. Seasonal influenza can continue to circulate through April.
- **Vaccinate everyone 6 months and older.** This is the first year that CDC is recommending universal immunization.
- **All health care workers should receive influenza vaccine.**
- This year's seasonal trivalent vaccine will contain the pandemic 2009 H1N1 virus as its H1N1 component. The influenza B component is the same as that in last year's seasonal influenza vaccine, while the H3N2 component is new this year.

Give special emphasis on vaccination efforts for high risk individuals

Those who are at higher risk for complications from influenza include:

- Women who are pregnant during the influenza season
- People 50 years and older
- Infants and young children (6 months-4 years old)
- Household contacts and caregivers of children under 5 years and adults ≥ 50 years
- Household contacts and caregivers of infants under 6 months who cannot be vaccinated
- Residents of nursing home or long-term care facilities
- American Indians/Native Alaskans
- People with underlying medical conditions
 - Chronic pulmonary problems including asthma
 - Cardiovascular disease (except for high blood pressure)
 - Liver disease
 - Kidney disease
 - Neurologic disease
 - Hematologic disease
 - Diabetes and other metabolic disorders
 - Morbid obesity (body-mass index ≥ 40)
 - Receiving long-term aspirin therapy (ages 6 months-18 years) due to the possible risk of developing Reye's syndrome
- People in close contact with those with underlying medical conditions

For more information, see *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, August 6, 2010.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5908.pdf>

Many Children Will Need Two Doses of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

- Children ages 6 months-8 years need two doses of 2010-2011 seasonal vaccine if they have not had at least one dose of pandemic 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine and at least two doses of a previous seasonal influenza vaccine.

For more details, see *MMWR*, August 6, 2010: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5908.pdf>

Influenza Vaccine Supply Expected to Be Plentiful

- About **160** million doses of influenza vaccine are expected to be available this fall. This is more than has ever been available in one season. This would be enough for approximately one half of people in the United States to receive one dose.
- In the 2009-2010 influenza season, approximately **114-115** million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine were distributed and approximately **39.7%** of all persons 6 months and older in the United States received influenza vaccine.

Source: *MMWR* April 30, 2010 <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5916.pdf>

Influenza Vaccines Have an Excellent Safety Record

- Influenza **infection** has a **4-7 times** higher risk of association with Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) than influenza **vaccine**, but both associations are rare.
- The 1976 swine influenza vaccine had a risk of one additional case of GBS per 100,000 people vaccinated.
- Many subsequent studies have not shown an association with influenza vaccines and GBS.
- In the few studies that have shown an association, the estimated risk for GBS was **low** at about 1 additional case of GBS per 1 million people vaccinated.
- The pandemic 2009 H1N1 vaccines had a similar safety profile to seasonal influenza vaccines.

For more information, see *MMWR* August 6, 2010, pp. 16-25.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5908.pdf>

Providers Can Find Vaccine Purchasing Information through IVATS

- The Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS) gives providers updated information throughout the influenza season about which vaccine manufacturers and which distributors have influenza vaccines available for purchase.
- IVATS can be found at: <http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats>
- IVATS is supported by the National Influenza Vaccine Summit which is co-sponsored by the American Medical Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to address influenza and influenza vaccine issues. <http://www.preventinfluenza.org>

Influenza Vaccine Resources

- Patient education handouts, Vaccine Information Statements (VIS), posters, and other updated information about influenza vaccines are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu> and <http://www.flu.gov>.
- Locations for influenza vaccine clinics in Arizona can be found through Community Information Referral at <http://www.cir.org/flu>, or call 602-263-8856 from anywhere, or 800-352-3792 from area codes 520 & 928

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